General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 September 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda items 20 and 79 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 9 September 2016

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.64)*]

70/303. Modalities for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/226 of 22 December 2015 in its entirety, and its decision to convene the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development from 5 to 9 June 2017 in Fiji, coinciding with World Oceans Day, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recognizing synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[4]

Recalling paragraph 2 of its resolution 70/226, in which it decided that all costs relating to the Conference and its preparations shall be financed through extrabudgetary resources,

Recalling also paragraph 3 of its resolution 70/226, welcoming the generous offer by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden to co-host and assume the costs of the Conference,

Acknowledging the exceptional circumstances being experienced by the Government of Fiji arising from the extensive devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Winston, which struck the nation in February 2016, and taking note of the

[1] Resolution 70/1.

[2] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[3] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[4] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

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subsequent request by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden to change the venue of the Conference,[5]

1. *Decides* that the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development shall be convened at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 9 June 2017, in view of the exceptional circumstances;

2. *Also decides* that the Governments of Fiji and Sweden shall retain co-hosting responsibilities by assuming the costs of the Conference and its preparatory process;

3. *Further decides* that the Conference shall:

(*a*) Identify ways and means to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14;

(*b*) Build on existing successful partnerships and stimulate innovative and concrete new partnerships to advance the implementation of Goal 14;

(*c*) Involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as actions taken towards, the implementation of Goal 14;

(*d*) Share the experiences gained at the national, regional and international levels in the implementation of Goal 14;

(*e*) Contribute to the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] by providing an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in accordance with resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013, 70/1 of 25 September 2015 and 70/299 of 29 July 2016, on the implementation of Goal 14, including on opportunities to strengthen progress in the future;

4. *Decides* that the overarching theme of the Conference shall be "Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14";

5. *Encourages* participation in the Conference at the highest possible level;

6. *Decides* that the Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: two Presidents, one from Fiji and one from Sweden, and 13 Vice-Presidents,[6] one of whom shall be designated as Rapporteur-General;

7. *Also decides* that the Conference shall comprise eight plenary meetings and seven partnership dialogues, to be held from 5 to 9 June 2017, and shall include a special event commemorating World Oceans Day, on 8 June 2017;

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[5] See A/70/1027.

[6] Three from each of the following groups: African States; Asia-Pacific States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; and Western European and other States. The election of the Presidents will, however, have the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidents allocated to the regions from which each of the Presidents is elected.

8. *Further decides* that the plenary meetings will be held as follows:

Monday, 5 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 8 June: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.;

9. *Decides* that the special event commemorating World Oceans Day will be held on 8 June, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.;

10. *Also decides* that the partnership dialogues will be held in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Monday, 5 June: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 8 June: 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.;

11. *Further decides* that the partnership dialogues shall be interactive and multi-stakeholder in nature and will focus on recommendations to support the implementation of Goal 14, including through strengthened cooperation, building on existing successful partnerships and stimulating innovative and concrete new ones;

12. *Decides* that the organizational arrangements for the partnership dialogues will be as follows:

(*a*) Each partnership dialogue will be presided over by two co-chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to be appointed by the Presidents of the Conference;

(*b*) The Secretary-General of the Conference will select a moderator and up to four panellists for each of the partnership dialogues. The panel discussions, facilitated by the moderator, will be followed by an interactive debate among States and other relevant stakeholders;

13. *Recommends* the provisional agenda set forth in annex I to the present resolution for adoption by the Conference;

14. *Decides* that the Conference shall be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

15. *Recommends* the provisional rules of procedure set forth in annex III to the present resolution for adoption by the Conference;

16. *Decides* that the Conference shall adopt by consensus a concise, focused, intergovernmentally agreed declaration in the form of a "Call for Action" to support the implementation of Goal 14 and a report containing the co-chairs' summaries of the partnership dialogues, as well as a list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of Goal 14, to be announced at the Conference;

17. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to

oversee the preparatory process and to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on a "Call for Action" by May 2017;

18. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene a two-day preparatory meeting, in February 2017, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, to be chaired by the two co-facilitators, with interpretation services on an as-available basis, with a view to considering the themes for the partnership dialogues and elements for a "Call for Action";

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a background note by the end of January 2017, including a proposal for themes of the partnership dialogues, for the preparatory meeting;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare concept papers on each of the themes of the partnership dialogues, taking into account the relevant oceans-related processes of the General Assembly, and in that regard invites the stakeholders referred to in paragraph 3 (*c*) above to submit inputs;

21. *Requests* the co-facilitators to present a concise draft "Call for Action" no later than March 2017, taking into account the deliberations of the preparatory meeting and other inputs, without prejudice to the processes established by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/292 of 19 June 2015;

22. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements for the Conference no later than April 2017;

23. *Decides* that the Conference and its preparatory process shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[7] recognizing that neither participation in the preparatory process and the Conference nor its outcome may affect the legal status of non-parties to the Convention or any other related agreements with regard to those instruments, or the legal status of parties to the Convention or any other related agreements with regard to those instruments;

24. *Invites* other relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations, whose work is relevant to the Conference, accredited in accordance with the provisions set forth in annex II to the present resolution, to participate as observers in the Conference and its preparatory meeting;

25. *Calls for* the participation of associate members of the regional commissions in the Conference and the preparatory meeting, in the same capacity specified for their participation in the global conferences on the sustainable development of small island developing States held in 1994, 2005 and 2014;

26. *Decides* that the accreditation to the Conference and the preparatory meeting shall be in accordance with the provisions set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide appropriate support from all relevant parts of the Secretariat, and in cooperation with other relevant parts of the United Nations system, to the work of the Conference and to facilitate inter-agency

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

cooperation to that end, as well as to ensure the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be achieved;

28. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General of the Conference to serve as focal point within the Secretariat for providing support to the organization of the Conference;

29. *Encourages* States and international donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to a trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, priority being given to representatives of the least developed countries and small island developing States, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses, in the meetings of the Conference and its preparatory meeting.

116th plenary meeting
9 September 2016

Annex I

Provisional agenda of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

United Nations Headquarters, 5 to 9 June 2017

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of two Presidents.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda of the Conference.
5. Election of officers other than the Presidents.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters.
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
   (*a*) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (*b*) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. General debate.
9. Partnership dialogues.
10. Special event commemorating World Oceans Day.
11. Outcome of the Conference.
12. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
13. Closure of the Conference.

Annex II

Proposed organization of work of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

United Nations Headquarters, 5 to 9 June 2017

1. The arrangements set out below have been formulated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/226 of 22 December 2015.

2. The United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development will be held at United Nations Headquarters, from 5 to 9 June 2017.

I. Organization of work

A. Plenary meetings

3. The Conference will consist of a total of eight plenary meetings, to be held as follows:

Monday, 5 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 8 June: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

4. The eight plenary meetings will be devoted to statements.

5. The list of speakers for the plenary meetings will be established on a first-come first-served basis, with the customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by other heads of delegation. The European Union will be included in the list of speakers. Detailed arrangements will be communicated in a timely manner through a note by the Secretariat.

6. At the formal opening of the Conference, to take place during the plenary meeting to be held on the morning of Monday, 5 June, consideration will be given to all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda, the election of the two Presidents of the Conference, the election of officers, the establishment of subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee, arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference and other matters. At the opening, statements will be made by the Presidents of the Conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General of the Conference. The plenary meetings will also hear statements from representatives of other intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as major groups and other stakeholders listed in paragraph 24 in accordance with the practices of the General Assembly.

7. The closing plenary meeting, to be held on the afternoon of Friday, 9 June, is expected to conclude with reporting on the partnership dialogues, to be followed by the adoption of the "Call for Action" and of the report of the Conference.

8. The plenary meetings will run in parallel with the partnership dialogues, unless otherwise specified in the present resolution.

B. Partnership dialogues

9. The Conference will include seven partnership dialogues, to be held in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Monday, 5 June: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 8 June: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

10. Summaries of the partnership dialogues should be submitted to the Conference at its closing plenary meeting and included in the final report of the Conference.

C. Special event commemorating World Oceans Day

11. The special event commemorating World Oceans Day will be held on 8 June 2017, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

D. Main Committee

12. The Main Committee, established in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference, will meet, if necessary, in parallel with plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing meetings, and will be responsible for finalizing any outstanding matters.

II. Credentials of representatives to the Conference: appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

13. The Credentials Committee will be appointed according to the rules of procedure of the Conference.

III. Accreditation: institutional stakeholders

14. Other relevant intergovernmental organizations that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and to previous United Nations conferences on sustainable development of the small island developing States, held in Barbados, Mauritius and Samoa, including associate members of the regional commissions, may participate in the deliberations of the Conference and its preparatory meeting, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of the procedures of the Conference.

15. Interested intergovernmental organizations that were not accredited to the conferences and summits listed in paragraph 14 above may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure.

IV. Accreditation: non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders

16. The non-governmental organizations and major groups as identified in Agenda 21,[8] in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as those that were accredited to the conferences and summits listed in paragraph 14 above shall register in order to participate.

17. The President of the General Assembly shall also draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations whose work is relevant to the Conference, who may participate in the Conference and its preparatory meeting as observers, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and shall submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis and bring the list to the attention of the General Assembly.[9]

18. The provisions of paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Conference and its preparatory process.

V. Secretariat

19. The Secretary-General of the Conference will serve as focal point within the Secretariat for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the representatives of the two Presidents.

VI. Documentation

20. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, the official documentation of the Conference will include documents issued before, during and after the Conference.

21. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the Conference adopt a report consisting of the decisions of the Conference, including a "Call for Action", a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.

22. Summaries of the plenary meetings and partnership dialogues and a list of voluntary commitments announced at the Conference for the implementation of Goal 14 should also be included in the report of the Conference.

VII. Organization of parallel meetings and other events of the Conference

23. Parallel meetings and other events, including those of major groups and other stakeholders, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and partnership dialogues, space permitting. Interpretation services will be provided for such meetings, as available.

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[9] The list will include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.

VIII. Side events

24. Side events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to the implementation of Goal 14, will be organized by participants in the Conference. Guidelines for organizing such events and the calendar of those events will be made available on the Conference website.

IX. Media coverage

25. Press materials will be prepared by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for journalists covering the Conference. In addition, regular press releases will be issued on the results of plenary meetings, partnership dialogues, the special event commemorating World Oceans Day and other events. All relevant documentation will be made available on the Conference website.

26. The plenary meetings, the partnership dialogues, the special event commemorating World Oceans Day and the press conferences will be broadcast live to the media area. A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

Annex III

Provisional rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

I. Representation and credentials

Rule 1
Composition of delegations

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference and that of the European Union shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Rule 2
Alternates and advisers

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

Rule 3
Submission of credentials

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, if possible, not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of the European Union, by the President of the European Council or the President of the European Commission.

Rule 4
Credentials Committee

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

Rule 5
Provisional participation in the Conference

Pending a decision of the Conference on their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

II. Officers

Rule 6
Elections

The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: two Presidents, one from Fiji and one from Sweden, each of whom shall preside separately. The Conference shall also elect 13 Vice-Presidents,[10] one of whom shall be designated as Rapporteur-General, as well as a chair for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. The officers shall be elected with a view to ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

Rule 7
General powers of the presiding President

1. The Presidents shall take turns in presiding at the plenary meetings of the Conference. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these rules, the presiding President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The presiding President shall rule on points of order and, subject to those rules, shall have complete control over the proceedings and the maintenance of order thereat. The presiding President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or closure of the debate and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

2. The presiding Presidents remain, in the exercise of their functions, under the authority of the Conference.

Rule 8
Acting President

1. If either President is to be absent from a meeting or any part thereof, the presiding President may designate one of the Vice-Presidents to preside.

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[10] Three from each of the following groups: African States; Asia-Pacific States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; and Western European and other States. The election of the two Presidents will, however, have the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidents allocated to the regions from which each of the Presidents is elected.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Rule 9
Replacement of a President

If either or both Presidents are unable to perform their functions, a new President(s) shall be elected.

Rule 10
Voting rights of the Presidents

Both Presidents, or a Vice-President acting as a President, shall not vote in the Conference, but may appoint another member of their delegation to vote in their place.

III. General Committee

Rule 11
Composition

The two Presidents, the Vice Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chair of the Main Committee shall constitute the General Committee. The two Presidents or, in their absence, one of the Vice-Presidents designated by them, shall serve as Chair of the General Committee. The Chair of the Credentials Committee and other committees established by the Conference in accordance with rule 48 may participate, without the right to vote, in the General Committee.

Rule 12
Substitute members

If a President or a Vice-President of the Conference is to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee, he/she may designate a member of his/her delegation to sit and vote in the Committee. In case of absence, the Chair of the Main Committee shall designate the Vice-Chair of that Committee as his/her substitute. When serving on the General Committee, a Vice-Chair of the Main Committee shall not have the right to vote if he/she is a member of the same delegation as another member of the General Committee.

Rule 13
Functions

The General Committee shall assist both Presidents in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of the work of the Conference.

IV. Secretariat of the Conference

Rule 14
Duties of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or her/his designated representative shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations may designate a member of the secretariat to act in her/his place at these meetings.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or her/his designated representative shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

Rule 15
Duties of the secretariat of the Conference

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with the present rules:

(*a*) Provide simultaneous interpretation of speeches made at meetings;

(*b*) Receive, translate, reproduce and circulate the documents of the Conference;

(*c*) Publish and circulate the official documents of the Conference;

(*d*) Prepare and circulate records of public meetings;

(*e*) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings of meetings;

(*f*) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations;

(*g*) Generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

Rule 16
Statements by the Secretariat

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, or any member of the Secretariat designated for that purpose, may, at any time, make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

V. Opening of the Conference

Rule 17
Temporary President

The Secretary-General of the United Nations or, in her/his absence, any member of the Secretariat designated by her/him for that purpose, shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its Presidents.

Rule 18
Decisions concerning organization

The Conference shall, at its first meeting:

(*a*) Adopt its rules of procedure;

(*b*) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;

(*c*) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

(*d*) Decide on the organization of its work.

VI. Conduct of business

Rule 19
Quorum

The presiding President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the representatives of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Rule 20
Speeches

1. No representative may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the presiding President. Subject to rules 21, 22 and 25 to 27, the presiding President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they indicate their desire to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.

2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the presiding President may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each participant may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded to only two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, with the consent of the Conference, the presiding President shall limit each intervention on procedural matters to five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the presiding President shall call him/her to order without delay.

Rule 21
Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the presiding President in accordance with the present rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the presiding President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the presiding President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 22
Precedence

The Chair or the Rapporteur-General of the Main Committee, or the representative of a subcommittee or working group, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the body concerned.

Rule 23
Closing of the list of speakers

During the course of a debate, the presiding President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed.

Rule 24
Right of reply

1. Notwithstanding rule 23, the presiding President shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference or of the European Union who requests it. Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.

2. The statements made under the present rule shall normally be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant item if that is sooner.

3. Representatives of a State or of the European Union may make no more than two statements under the present rule at a given meeting on any item. The first shall be limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes; representatives shall, in any event, attempt to be as brief as possible.

Rule 25
Adjournment of debate

A representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two representatives in favour and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 26
Closure of debate

A representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his/her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 27
Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Subject to rule 38, a representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 28
Order of motions

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

(*a*) To suspend the meeting;

(*b*) To adjourn the meeting;

(*c*) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(*d*) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

Rule 29
Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General or his/her designated representative, who shall circulate copies to all delegations in the languages of the Conference. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall be discussed or put to a decision no earlier than 24 hours after copies have been circulated to all delegations. The presiding President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though those amendments have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day.

Rule 30
Withdrawal of proposals and motions

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 31
Decisions on competence

Subject to rule 28, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Rule 32
Reconsideration of proposals

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded to only two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

VII. Decision-making

Rule 33
General agreement

The Conference shall adopt a declaration in the form of a "Call for Action", by consensus, and make its best endeavour to ensure that all the other work of the Conference is accomplished by consensus.

Rule 34
Voting rights

Each State participating in the Conference shall have one vote.

Rule 35
Majority required

1. Subject to rule 33, decisions of the Conference on all matters of substance shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting.

2. Except as otherwise provided in the present rules, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the presiding President of the Conference shall rule on the question. An appeal against that ruling shall be immediately put to the vote, and the presiding President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

4. If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 36
Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"

For the purpose of the present rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

Rule 37
Method of voting

1. Except as provided in rule 44, the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the presiding President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll call. A representative may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Conference.

3. The vote of each State participating in a roll-call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

Rule 38
Conduct during voting

After the presiding President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting, except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

Rule 39
Explanation of vote

Representatives may make brief statements, consisting solely of explanations of vote, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The presiding President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.

Rule 40
Division of proposals

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be decided on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the Conference for decision as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Rule 41
Amendments

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these rules shall be regarded as including amendments.

Rule 42
Order of voting on amendments

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

Rule 43
Order of voting on proposals

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case, the original proposal shall be regarded as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Rule 44
Elections

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or slate of candidates.

Rule 45
Balloting

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled.

VIII. Subsidiary bodies

Rule 46
Main Committee

The Conference may establish a Main Committee, as required, which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

Rule 47
Representation on the Main Committee

Each State participating in the Conference and the European Union may be represented by one representative on the Main Committee established by the Conference. They may assign to the Committee such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Rule 48
Other committees and working groups

1. In addition to the Main Committee referred to above, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

2. Subject to the decision of the plenary of the Conference, the Main Committee may set up subcommittees and working groups.

Rule 49
Members of committees, subcommittees and working groups

1. The members of the committees and working groups of the Conference, referred to in rule 48, paragraph 1, shall be appointed by the two Presidents, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

2. Members of the subcommittees and working groups of committees shall be appointed by the Chair of the committee in question, subject to the approval of that committee, unless the committee decides otherwise.

Rule 50
Officers

Except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

Rule 51
Quorum

1. The Chair of the Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

2. A majority of the representatives of the General Committee or the Credentials Committee or of any committee, subcommittee or working group shall constitute a quorum provided that they are representatives of participating States.

Rule 52
Officers, conduct of business and voting

The rules contained in sections II, VI (except rule 19) and VII above shall be applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of committees, subcommittees and working groups, except that:

(*a*) The Chairs of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee and the Chairs of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may exercise the right to vote, provided that they are representatives of participating States;

(*b*) Decisions of committees, subcommittees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or an amendment shall require the majority established by rule 32.

IX. Languages and records

Rule 53
Languages of the Conference

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

Rule 54
Interpretation

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one such language.

Rule 55
Languages of official documents

Official documents of the Conference shall be made available in the languages of the Conference.

Rule 56
Sound recordings of meetings

Sound recordings of the plenary meetings of the Conference, the partnership dialogues, the special event to commemorate World Oceans Day, as well as of the meetings of the Main Committee, shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference or the

Main Committee, no such recordings shall be made of any of the other meetings of the Conference.

X. Public and private meetings

General principles

Rule 57

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any committee shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise. All decisions taken by the plenary of the Conference at a private meeting shall be announced at an early public meeting of the plenary.

Rule 58

As a general rule, meetings of the General Committee, subcommittees or working groups shall be held in private.

Rule 59
Communiqués on private meetings

At the close of a private meeting, the presiding officer of the organ concerned may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General of the United Nations or her/his designated representative.

XI. Other participants and observers

Rule 60
Intergovernmental organizations and other entities[11] that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observer in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices

Representatives designated by intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observer in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

Rule 61
Associate members of regional commissions[12]

Representatives designated by the associate members of regional commissions listed in the footnote below may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

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[11] For the purpose of the present rules, the term "other entities" includes the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Olympic Committee, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

[12] American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Curaçao, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Guam, Martinique, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

Rule 62
Representatives of the specialized agencies and related organizations[13]

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies and related organizations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Rule 63
Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations

Save where otherwise specifically provided with respect to the European Union in these rules of procedure, representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Rule 64
Representatives of interested United Nations organs

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Rule 65
Representatives of non-governmental organizations[14]

1. Non-governmental organizations accredited to participate in the Conference may designate representatives to attend public meetings of the Conference and the Main Committee as observers.

2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the Conference and subject to the approval of the Conference, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence. If the number of requests to speak is too large, the non-governmental organizations shall be requested to form themselves into constituencies, such constituencies to speak through spokespersons.

Rule 66
Written statements

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 60 to 65 shall be circulated by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and the languages in which the statements are made available to it at the site of the Conference, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a

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[13] For the purpose of the present rules, the term "related organizations" includes the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Criminal Court, the International Seabed Authority, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the World Trade Organization.

[14] Paragraph 23.3 of Agenda 21 provides that "Any policies, definitions or rules affecting access to and participation by non-governmental organizations in the work of United Nations institutions or agencies associated with the implementation of Agenda 21 must apply equally to all major groups". Agenda 21 defines major groups as comprising women, children and youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers. Therefore, based on Agenda 21, rule 65 shall apply equally to non-governmental organizations and other major groups.

non-governmental organization must be related to the work of the Conference and be on a subject in which the organization has a special competence. Written statements shall not be made available at United Nations expense and shall not be issued as official documents.

XII. Suspension and amendment of the rules of procedure

Rule 67
Method of suspension

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Rule 68
Method of amendment

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 September 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 34 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 9 September 2016

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.65 and Add.1)*]

70/304. Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 65/283 of 22 June 2011, 66/291 of 13 September 2012 and 68/303 of 31 July 2014 on strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions and Security Council resolutions and presidential statements related to mediation,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its commitment to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States,

Recalling Chapter VI, including Article 33, of the Charter, and other Articles relevant to mediation,

Bearing in mind its responsibilities, functions and powers under the Charter, and thus recalling all its relevant resolutions in matters related to the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, including through mediation,

Reaffirming the respective role and authority of the General Assembly and the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter,

Reaffirming also its commitment to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence and the duty of Member States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and to uphold the resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination or foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter,

Please recycle

Bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflicts persist in many parts of the world,

Emphasizing that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, is a serious threat in many parts of the world, and recalling its commitment to implement, in a balanced and integrated manner, the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,[1]

Recalling that the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, in accordance with the Charter and international law, including through mediation, remain a primary responsibility of Member States without prejudice to Article 36 of the Charter, and to that end emphasizing the importance of developing and supporting national capacities, as appropriate,

Reiterating the importance of national ownership and leadership in sustaining peace, whereby the responsibility for sustaining peace is broadly shared by the Government and all other national stakeholders, and underlining the importance, in this regard, of inclusivity in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account, and, in line with this, acknowledging the importance of engaging in mediation efforts with all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate and in accordance with applicable international law,

Recognizing the important role that various national, local and civil society actors can play in advancing the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, including civil society organizations, women's groups, youth organizations, the private sector and community leaders, and further encouraging their contributions and continued coordination to improve complementarity in mediation activities, as appropriate,

Acknowledging the recent review processes to strengthen the United Nations system, and in this regard taking note of the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations[2] and the report of the Secretary-General on the future of United Nations peace operations,[3] which formed the basis for its resolutions 70/6 of 3 November 2015 and 70/268 of 14 June 2016, the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture,[4] which formed the basis for its resolution 70/262 of 27 April 2016, as well as the report of the Secretary-General submitting the results of the global study on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,[5]

Reiterating the call of these review processes for a stronger emphasis on mediation and conflict prevention and giving priority to seeking inclusive, long-term political solutions to conflicts, as part of a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, and furthermore encouraging coherence, synergies and complementarities in taking forward the results of these reviews,

Recognizing the potential of mediation in preventing conflicts, also reaffirmed in the report of the Secretary-General on conflict prevention,[6] and the importance of

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[1] Resolution 60/288.

[2] See A/70/95-S/2015/446.

[3] A/70/357-S/2015/682.

[4] A/69/968-S/2015/490.

[5] S/2015/716.

[6] S/2015/730.

mediation activities in all phases of the conflict cycle, for sustaining peace as defined in its resolution 70/262 and in Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) of 27 April 2016,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit[7] that called for strengthening the prevention and mediation capabilities of the United Nations,

Recognizing mediation as an efficient and cost-effective tool in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, and welcoming its increased use without prejudice to other means mentioned in Chapter VI of the Charter,

Appreciating the efforts of the Secretary-General, Member States, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant actors to support and promote the use of mediation,

Recalling the good offices of the Secretary-General, including in preventive diplomacy, and appreciating his efforts to continue to strengthen United Nations mediation support capacities, in accordance with the Charter, relevant United Nations resolutions and respective mandates,

Acknowledging that effective mediation and mediation support require systematic efforts at all levels, including at the national level, inter alia, timely conflict analysis, development of case-specific strategic road maps for mediation drawing on best practices and lessons learned, and identification of appropriate expertise,

Recognizing the necessity for cooperation and coordination among actors involved in a specific mediation context, in order to increase the effectiveness of mediation efforts and avoid duplication,

Reaffirming the role of regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter, taking note of their important role as mediators, within agreed mandates, in many regions, acting with the consent of parties to a particular dispute or conflict, taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations on mediation,[8] and stressing the growing need for partnerships and cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the field of mediation and conflict prevention, in line with their mandates,

Appreciating the increased capacity for engagement in mediation by the African Union and the other regional and subregional organizations, and welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to work together with regional and subregional organizations to strengthen their mediation support capacities, upon request and in accordance with agreed mandates,

Recognizing the importance of the equal and effective participation and the full involvement of women at all levels, at all stages and in all aspects of the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, as well as making available adequate gender expertise for all mediators and their teams, recognizing also the contribution by women in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict

[7] A/70/709.

[8] A/70/328.

prevention and resolution and their role as mediators, and affirming that further efforts are necessary to appoint women as chief or lead peace mediators in order to achieve gender balance, and in this context reaffirming the full and effective implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions, including those on women and peace and security, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[9] and furthermore welcoming the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in this respect,

Taking note of the commitment of the Secretary-General to support the role of mediation in the United Nations, and acknowledging the importance of adequate funding in this regard,

1. *Reiterates* that all Member States should strictly adhere to their obligations as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, including in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution;

2. *Acknowledges* the importance of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution and in seeking long-term political solutions for sustaining peace, and recognizes that mediation needs to be further and more effectively used, without prejudice to other means mentioned in Chapter VI of the Charter;

3. *Welcomes* the increasing contributions of Member States, as well as of the United Nations and of regional and subregional organizations, to mediation efforts, as appropriate;

4. *Recognizes* that responsible and credible mediation requires, inter alia, national ownership, the consent of the parties to a particular dispute or conflict, respect for national sovereignty, the impartiality of the mediators, their compliance with agreed mandates, compliance with obligations of States and other relevant actors under international law, including applicable treaties, the operational preparedness, including process and substantive expertise, of the mediators, and coherence, coordination and complementarity of mediation efforts,

5. *Stresses* that the prevention of conflicts remains a primary responsibility of States and actions undertaken within the framework of conflict prevention by the United Nations should support and complement, as appropriate, the conflict prevention roles of national Governments;

6. *Reiterates* the critical importance of prevention of armed conflicts in a timely and effective manner, and to that end encourages Member States, as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, to promote the use of appropriate peaceful means, primarily preventive diplomacy and mediation, in accordance with the Charter;

7. *Acknowledges* the importance of system-wide coherence, coordination and sustained engagement in mediation for the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution within the United Nations, as appropriate, and in this regard encourages closer cooperation among relevant United Nations organs and representatives, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and respective mandates, while avoiding duplication of efforts;

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[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of coherence, coordination and complementarity of mediation efforts between the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant actors, in view of the needs of a specific mediation context, including strategic coordination by lead mediators with other actors in support of a peace process and the development of a common approach, in accordance with agreed mandates;

9. *Appreciates* the work undertaken to enhance the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations on mediation, and encourages further development of these partnerships in order to enhance mediation, preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention;

10. *Invites* Member States, as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, to continue to enhance the use of mediation and other tools mentioned in Chapter VI of the Charter for the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, and in this regard encourages devoting further support and resources, as necessary, to the efforts to further professionalize mediation support for the mediation initiatives of Member States, the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations;

11. *Encourages* Member States, as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, to continue to develop, where appropriate, their mediation capacities in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, to enable a professional approach in their mediation activities and the effectiveness of mediation, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to work with Member States and relevant regional and subregional organizations, upon request and in accordance with agreed mandates, in mediation capacity-building, including in broadening the capacity of the developing countries;

12. *Further recognizes* the increasing contribution by the African Union in efforts to peacefully settle conflicts of its members, and the peace initiatives conducted by the African regional and subregional organizations;

13. *Welcomes and further encourages* regional initiatives by Member States, as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, to strengthen mediation in their regions, as appropriate, such as the Mediation in the Mediterranean initiative with its continued activities;

14. *Welcomes* the good offices of the Secretary-General and the contribution of the Secretariat to the United Nations mediation efforts, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to offer his good offices, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant United Nations resolutions, and to provide mediation support, where appropriate, to his special representatives and envoys, as well as, upon request, to Member States and regional and subregional organizations;

15. *Encourages* the use, as appropriate, of the United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation[10] in mediation efforts, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter;

16. *Acknowledges* the importance for the United Nations field missions to work closely with national stakeholders and local communities in accordance with mission mandates, and to further encourage, as appropriate, confidence-building measures and dialogue, including at the community level, in order to prevent

[10] A/66/811, annex I.

conflict and support reconciliation, in line with the principle of national ownership and with a view to sustaining peace;

17. *Further encourages* Member States and regional and subregional organizations to promote the equal, full and effective participation of women in all forums and at all levels of the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, particularly at the decision-making level, as well as in the implementation and monitoring of peace agreements;

18. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to appoint women as chief or lead mediators and as members of mediation teams in United Nations-sponsored peace processes, as well as to ensure adequate gender expertise for all United Nations processes, and invites similar efforts by Member States as well as by regional and subregional organizations, in order to address the frequent underrepresentation of women in peace processes;

19. *Calls upon* all those engaged in mediation activities to promote the integration of women's needs and gender perspectives in all policy development, planning and carrying out of mediation processes and implementation of their outcomes, inter alia, through conducting conflict analyses in a gender-sensitive manner, including on the occurrence of sexual violence in conflict where pertinent;

20. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to use the mediation capacities of the United Nations as well as those of regional and subregional organizations, where applicable, and to promote mediation in their bilateral and multilateral relations;

21. *Invites* all Member States to provide sustained political support, expertise and timely and adequate resources, including through the United Nations, for mediation and, as appropriate, for the implementation of agreed outcomes of mediation processes, in order to assure their success, as well as for mediation capacity-building activities of the United Nations and of regional and subregional organizations;

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating interaction by mediators between concerned parties and other stakeholders, as appropriate, as well as inclusive national processes in the implementation of the agreed outcomes of mediation processes;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on United Nations activities in support of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution;

24. *Invites* the Secretary-General to regularly brief Member States on the mediation activities of the United Nations, in order to promote closer consultation with Member States and to increase transparency;

25. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution" at its seventy-second session.

116th plenary meeting
9 September 2016

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 September 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 120

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 2016

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/1003)*]

70/305. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/321 of 11 September 2015 and all other previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,[1]

Acknowledging that resolution 69/321 constitutes an important landmark for the strengthening of the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly as established by the Charter of the United Nations, in particular regarding the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads of the United Nations system,

Mindful of the milestone achievements in the course of 2015, in particular the adoption by the General Assembly of the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[2] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] as well as the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[4]

Underlining the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly,

Reiterating that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the overall reform of the United Nations,

Recognizing the role of the General Assembly in addressing issues of peace and security, in accordance with the Charter, and acknowledging its role and authority, established in Article 10 of the Charter, to make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both, on questions or matters within the scope of the Charter, except as provided in Article 12 thereof,

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[1] Resolutions 46/77, 47/233, 48/264, 51/241, 52/163, 55/14, 55/285, 56/509, 57/300, 57/301, 58/126, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286, 61/292, 62/276, 63/309, 64/301, 65/315, 66/294, 67/297 and 68/307.

[2] Resolution 70/1.

[3] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[4] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Please recycle

Reaffirming the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law,

Mindful that we have yet to achieve full gender and geographical balance within the United Nations, while welcoming the ongoing intergovernmental efforts in this regard, and convinced of the need to guarantee equal opportunities for women and men from all regional groups in their access to senior decision-making positions, including to the post of Secretary-General, bearing in mind the need to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity,

Welcoming the historic number of women candidates for Secretary-General presented by the Member States in accordance with resolution 69/321,

Reaffirming the role and authority of the General Assembly in global matters of concern to the international community, including in global governance, as set out in the Charter,

Affirming that the work of the President of the General Assembly and of the Office of the President of the General Assembly shall be guided by the principles of universality, objectivity, non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation,

Considering that a code of ethics for the President of the General Assembly is an important part of the revitalization of the work of the Assembly,

Considering also that such a code of ethics will strengthen the capacity of the President of the General Assembly to exercise his or her duties and responsibilities while enhancing his or her moral authority, integrity and credibility, and will require supportive action by other stakeholders and in particular by Member States,

Welcoming the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to reinvigorate the revitalization of the work of the Assembly during its seventieth session,

Taking note of the observations and proposals on improving the working methods of the Main Committees of the General Assembly made by the Chairs of the Main Committees at the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly thematic meeting on working methods held on 3 March 2016,[5]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly and the updated inventory of Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed thereto;[5]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the multilingual web page devoted to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, accessible directly from the United Nations website, which exists in all six official languages, and invites the Secretariat to continue updating regularly and equally that web page and its substantive content in a cost-effective manner;

3. *Decides* to establish, at its seventy-first session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

[5] See A/70/1003.

(*a*) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on the progress achieved in past sessions as well as on previous resolutions, including evaluating the status of their implementation;

(*b*) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-first session;

4. *Also decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall continue its review of the inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted at the seventieth session and, as a result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report to be submitted at the seventy-first session of the Assembly;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[6] and requests the Secretary-General to submit an update on the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on revitalization addressed to the Secretariat for implementation that have not been implemented, with an indication of the constraints and reasons behind any lack of implementation, for further consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-first session;

Role and authority of the General Assembly

6. *Reaffirms* the role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, using the procedures set forth in rules 7 to 10 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;

7. *Recognizes* that implementation of General Assembly resolutions, including those related to the revitalization of its work, enhances the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, and underlines the important role and responsibility of Member States in their full implementation;

8. *Reaffirms* that the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations is mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers and competencies as enshrined in the Charter, as demonstrated through the joint activity of the Presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly in the process of the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General during the seventieth session, and in this regard stresses the importance of further ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among the Presidents of the principal organs and also with the Secretariat, in particular the Secretary-General;

9. *Welcomes with appreciation* the continued practice of holding periodic informal briefings by the Secretary-General on his priorities, travels and most recent activities, including his participation in international meetings and events organized outside the United Nations, and encourages the continuation of this practice;

10. *Takes note* of the informal meeting on ways and means to further enhance the cooperation between permanent missions and the Secretariat, held on 15 March 2016, as well as of the letter dated 23 March 2016 from the President of the General

[6] A/70/681.

Assembly transmitting the summary of that meeting, as part of the interaction between the permanent missions and the Secretariat, requests the Secretary-General to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-first session of the Assembly on the follow-up actions taken, and decides in this regard to establish an interactive and comprehensive dialogue between the permanent missions and the Secretariat within the framework of the Ad Hoc Working Group, aimed at improving the work of the Secretariat in its interaction with the permanent missions;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance and benefit of continuing interaction between the General Assembly and international or regional forums and organizations dealing with global matters of concern to the international community, as well as with civil society, where appropriate, and encourages the exploration of appropriate actions or measures, while fully respecting the intergovernmental nature of the Assembly, in conformity with its relevant rules of procedure;

12. *Recognizes* the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, and calls upon the President of the General Assembly to organize such debates in close consultation with the General Committee and the Member States, including with regard to the preliminary programme of such debates, in order to enable an adequate level of participation and an appropriate allocation of time for substantive interactive discussion during the debates so as to enable all interested delegations to state their positions and to facilitate, where appropriate, results-oriented and productive outcomes of such debates, and in this context welcomes the initiative of the President of the Assembly at its seventieth session to select "The United Nations at 70: a new commitment to action" as the theme of the general debate;

13. *Commends* improvements in the quality of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, including as presented in the note by the President of the Council,[7] and welcomes the willingness of the Council to continue to consider other suggestions concerning improvements to the annual report;

14. *Invites* the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, while carrying out its activities, as mandated by the General Assembly, to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the Assembly and to enhance world public and media awareness of the contribution made by the Assembly to the fulfilment of the goals of the Organization, as set out in the Charter;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, under relevant agenda items, to bring to the attention of the Member States constraints that have prevented the Secretary-General from implementing those provisions of General Assembly resolutions that are addressed to the Secretariat;

Working methods

16. *Reaffirms* existing relevant mandates related to the improvement of the working methods of the Main Committees, including section C of the annex to resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, paragraphs 7 to 13 of resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005, cluster III of the annex to resolution 60/286 of 8 September 2006 and resolution 69/321, in particular paragraphs 16 and 17 thereof;

17. *Requests* each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and in this regard invites the Chairs of the Main

[7] S/2015/944.

Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group during the seventy-first session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate;

18. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include, in his report to be submitted at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Pattern of conferences", information regarding the basis for the current practice whereby Member States bear the additional costs of using United Nations Headquarters conference services during business hours;

19. *Welcomes* the holding of elections for non-permanent members of the Security Council and members of the Economic and Social Council about six months before the elected members assume their responsibilities, welcomes the note by the President of the Security Council in which the elected Security Council members are invited to observe some of its meetings and activities as from 1 October immediately preceding their term of membership,[8] and also welcomes such efforts to afford elected members appropriate opportunities to prepare for their tenure in the Security Council;

20. *Emphasizes* that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at the seventy-first session, in consultation with Member States, should continue their consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group;

21. *Recalls* its resolution 48/264 of 29 July 1994, by which it adopted the Guidelines on the Rationalization of the Agenda of the General Assembly;

22. *Also recalls* the need to enhance synergies and coherence and reduce overlap where it is found to exist in the agendas of the General Assembly, especially of its Second and Third Committees, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council and the Assembly, as well as all other related forums, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and in the light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] and calls for the continuation of such efforts during the seventy-first session of the Assembly;

23. *Takes note* of the report on the strategic alignment of future sessions of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development submitted by the group created pursuant to the letter dated 16 March 2016 of the President of the Assembly at its seventieth session;

24. *Recalls* rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and encourages the Chairs of the Main Committees and the Secretary-General to ensure observance of these rules, within their respective mandates;

25. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the role of the General Committee to support the work of the General Assembly;

26. *Reiterates* its invitation to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with the General Committee and Member States, to enhance the coordination of the

[8] S/2016/619.

scheduling of the meetings of the Assembly, including high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing their interactivity and effectiveness, especially during the general debate, and distribution of such events throughout the session;

27. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, resolution 57/301 of 13 March 2003, by which the General Assembly, inter alia, decided that the general debate shall open on the Tuesday following the opening of the regular session of the Assembly and shall be held without interruption, and encourages the scheduling of future high-level meetings during the first half of the year, from within existing resources, taking into account the calendar of conferences and without prejudice to the current practice of convening one high-level meeting in September at the beginning of each session of the Assembly;

28. *Decides* that, with sufficient time before the opening of each regular or special session of the General Assembly, the Secretariat, in particular its protocol and security services, shall hold discussions with all Member States on all aspects related to the organization of the high-level segment of the general debate and any other activities that may have special organizational requirements;

29. *Also decides* that, with due consideration given to accessibility issues, in all plenary meetings of the General Assembly, including plenary meetings of high-level events, the seating arrangement of Member States shall follow English alphabetical order, beginning with the name of the country selected by lot each year and avoiding distinctions between Member States as to the rank of the head of delegation;

30. *Recalls* the interim arrangement approved by the General Assembly in decision 68/505 of 1 October 2013, recommending a pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees until the seventy-third session of the Assembly, reiterates its request that the Ad Hoc Working Group prepare long-term arrangements concerning the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism, in consultation with regional groups, and that it submit them to the Assembly no later than at its seventy-second session, and in this regard reiterates its invitation to Member States to present proposals and to devote early attention to the matter of concluding a future arrangement, which would come into effect at the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly, with the annex to resolution 68/307 of 10 September 2014 containing the guidelines on the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees to be considered in this context;

31. *Encourages* Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of Chairs of the Main Committees;

32. *Also encourages* Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs, reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents, and in this regard requests the Secretariat to further improve, harmonize and, where appropriate, unify such e-services;

33. *Reiterates* the need to fully implement and observe rule 55 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which provides that during the sessions of the Assembly the *Journal of the United Nations* shall be published in the languages of the Assembly, expresses its concern about the lack of implementation of rule 55, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to provide during the seventy-first session of the Assembly innovative proposals on the possible changes to the format,

production and editing of the Journal, by reallocating existing resources and economizing on the costs of publishing it;

Selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads

34. *Commends* the Presidents of the General Assembly at its seventieth session and the Security Council for December 2015 for having started the process of soliciting candidates for the position of Secretary-General by sending a joint letter to all Member States,[9] and also commends the circulation to all Member States on an ongoing basis of the names of individuals that have been submitted for consideration as candidates for the position, which have also been posted on the dedicated website of the President of the Assembly together with the vision statements of the candidates;[10]

35. *Also commends* the President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session for his active contribution to the implementation of provisions guiding the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, as contained in resolution 69/321 and in accordance with the role accorded to him by that resolution;

36. *Strongly welcomes* the implementation of paragraph 42 of resolution 69/321 through the organization of informal dialogues to which all candidates for the position of Secretary-General have been invited;

37. *Reiterates* that the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General differs from the process used with regard to the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system, given the roles of the Security Council and the General Assembly in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter, emphasizes in particular that the process of selection of the Secretary-General is guided by the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, building on the best practices and the participation of all Member States, and also emphasizes the need to continue to fully implement resolution 69/321;

38. *Notes* that the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General is expected to take place in 2016, and as a result requests, without prejudice to the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session to actively support this process in accordance with the role accorded to him by relevant resolutions, including the present resolution;

39. *Reaffirms* paragraph 38 of resolution 69/321, and welcomes the presentation of a significant number of women for the position of ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, following its invitation to Member States to do so;

40. *Stresses*, in particular, the need to ensure the appointment of the best possible candidate for the post of Secretary-General, who embodies the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and who demonstrates a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations and strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills;

41. *Reaffirms its commitment* to continue, in the Ad Hoc Working Group, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, its thorough

[9] A/70/623-S/2015/988.

[10] See A/70/672, A/70/687, A/70/688, A/70/731, A/70/732, A/70/752, A/70/768, A/70/813, A/70/827, A/70/906, A/70/908 and A/70/979.

consideration of the issues under the third thematic cluster of the Working Group, on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, including the examination of innovative ways to improve the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General and other executive heads in all its aspects, and recalls all relevant resolutions, including resolutions 11(I) of 24 January 1946, 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002, 57/301, 58/126 of 19 December 2003, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286, 61/292 of 2 August 2007, 62/276 of 15 September 2008, 63/309 of 14 September 2009, 64/301 of 13 September 2010, 65/315 of 12 September 2011, 66/294 of 17 September 2012, 67/297 of 29 August 2013, 68/307and 69/321, reaffirming the applicable procedures set out in the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in particular rule 141, and acknowledging existing relevant practices of the Assembly;

42. *Calls upon* the President of the General Assembly to monitor and review the implementation by the Assembly of these resolutions;

43. *Welcomes* the briefing provided by the Secretariat to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the gender balance and regional origin of the executive heads of the United Nations system and the Senior Management Group of the Organization, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take all effective measures towards achieving equal and fair distribution based on gender and geographical balance, while securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity;

44. *Recalls* its resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, in particular paragraph 2, which notes that the Secretary-General will appoint the Deputy Secretary-General following consultations with Member States, and stresses that the process of appointments to senior posts by the Secretary-General within the Organization should be inclusive and transparent, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and as set out in the Charter;

45. *Stresses* the need to ensure equal and fair distribution based on gender balance and as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard recalls its resolutions 46/232 of 2 March 1992 and 51/241, adopted without a vote, which contain the principles that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity are the paramount considerations in the recruitment and performance of international civil servants and that, as a general rule, there should be no monopoly on senior posts in the United Nations system by nationals of any State or group of States;

Strengthening the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

46. *Commends* the President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session for strengthening the transparency and inclusivity of his Office, including the increased and creative use of online facilities, and for releasing detailed information on the finances, official travel, staffing and activities of his Office, and invites future Presidents of the Assembly to follow these good practices;

47. *Notes with appreciation* the views expressed by the Office of the President of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the strengthening of the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and its relationship with the Secretariat and the measures already undertaken in this regard, while continuing to explore additional measures where feasible, and notes the support provided by the

General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat to the Office of the President;

48. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General's Task Force on the functioning of the Office of the President of the General Assembly;[11]

49. *Encourages* the Presidents of the General Assembly to continue with the practice of periodically briefing Member States on their activities, including official travel;

50. *Commends* the initiative of convening a retreat on the strengthening of the General Assembly, which brings together the incoming and outgoing presidencies of each session of the Assembly, and in this regard takes note of the summary of the proceedings of the retreat held on 16 June 2015;[12]

51. *Encourages* exchanges between the President-elect of the General Assembly and the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly so that Presidents-elect may benefit from the experiences of former Presidents in terms of best practices and lessons learned;

52. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, assisted by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, to develop a standardized format for the written handover summary of best practices and lessons learned, to be transmitted to his or her successor as part of the handover briefing at the end of every Presidency and made available to Member States;

53. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to preserve the records and institutional memory during her or his term of office by using existing United Nations record-keeping and archiving facilities, taking into account existing record-keeping standards and practices of the Organization;

54. *Requests* the Secretary-General to utilize the existing United Nations record-keeping and archiving facilities in order to archive the documents of the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

55. *Stresses* the need to promote and ensure gender balance throughout the United Nations system, and in this regard invites Member States to consider presenting women as candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly, and encourages Presidents-elect to continue to ensure respect for balanced gender and geographical representation in the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

56. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly on the sources of funding and staffing of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, including on any technical, logistical, protocol-related or financial questions, and for more clarification on the budgetary basis for the provision of such support by the Secretariat;

57. *Decides* that the President-elect of the General Assembly shall take an oath of office of his or her own, as detailed in annex I to the present resolution, at the moment of handing over the gavel in the final plenary meeting of the preceding

[11] A/70/783, annex.

[12] See A/70/666.

session, and decides that the text of the oath shall be annexed to the rules of procedure of the Assembly;

58. *Also decides* that the President of the General Assembly shall observe a code of ethics, as detailed in annex II to the present resolution, and further decides that the text of the code of ethics for the President of the Assembly shall be annexed to the rules of procedure of the Assembly;

59. *Requests* the Ethics Office of the Secretariat and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to provide an induction briefing to all Presidents of the General Assembly and members of the Office of the President of the General Assembly prior to the assumption of their duties;

60. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure, from within agreed resources, that the Office of the President of the General Assembly is allocated dedicated Secretariat staff, with responsibility to, in an efficient and capable manner, coordinate the transition between Presidents, manage interactions between the President and the Secretary-General and preserve institutional memory, welcomes the provision by Member States of staff from their respective permanent missions to be seconded to the Office of the President, and encourages the continuation of this existing good practice;

61. *Requests* the Secretary-General, and invites the heads of specialized agencies, funds and programmes, upon request by the President of the General Assembly, to consider seconding staff to work in the Office of the President of the General Assembly on a more systematic basis;

62. *Decides* that Presidents of the General Assembly shall provide financial disclosures upon assumption and completion of their duties, in line with the existing United Nations financial disclosure programme;

63. *Notes* that the activities of the President of the General Assembly have increased markedly in recent years, recalls provisions regarding support for the Office of the President of the General Assembly in previous resolutions, and expresses continued interest in seeking ways to further support the Office, in accordance with existing procedures, in particular rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, as well as to continue discussions within the Ad Hoc Working Group on further steps to strengthen the Office,

64. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, proposals to review the budget allocation of the Office of the President of the General Assembly in accordance with existing procedures and bearing in mind the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General's Task Force on the functioning of the Office of the President, and in this connection looks forward to considering such proposals during the main part of its seventy-second session;

65. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make non-staff programme budget resources available to Presidents of the General Assembly from the date of their election;

66. *Stresses* the importance of the contributions of Member States to the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and in this regard notes with appreciation the contributions that have been made to the Fund, and encourages Member States to continue to contribute to the Fund and to allow for unspent contributions from previous sessions to be made available for succeeding terms;

67. *Stresses* the need for all contributions to be vetted through the Ethics Office and for non-in-kind contributions to be channelled through the Trust Fund;

68. *Requests* Presidents of the General Assembly to publish information on the website of the President on an ongoing basis on substantive activities, contributions to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and details of official travel undertaken during his or her Presidency and to produce an end-of-term report on these matters;

69. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to report on the implementation of all mandates accorded to him or her by the present resolution to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-first session of the Assembly.

117th plenary meeting
13 September 2016

Annex I

Oath of Office

I solemnly declare that I shall truthfully perform my duties and exercise the functions entrusted to me as President of the General Assembly of the United Nations in all loyalty, discretion and conscience, and that I shall discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interest of the United Nations only in view and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the code of ethics for the President of the General Assembly, without seeking or accepting any instruction in regard to the performance of my duties from any Government or other source external to the Organization.

Annex II

Code of ethics for the President of the General Assembly

1. The President of the General Assembly in performing his or her duties and responsibilities as an elected official, fully in line with the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, shall at all times from the date of election observe the highest standards of ethical conduct.

2. The President shall perform his or her duties and responsibilities in an impartial and equitable manner and in full honesty and good faith.

3. The President shall avoid any action that might result in or create the appearance of:

(*a*) The use of the office of the Presidency or resources attached thereto for private gain;

(*b*) Giving unwarranted preferential treatment to any State, organization or person;

(*c*) Impeding the work of the Organization, or taking a preferential, biased or prejudged approach;

(*d*) Affecting adversely the confidence of Member States in the integrity of the work of the Organization.

4. The President shall engage with Member States in a consultative and cooperative manner, while at the same time refraining from receiving or accepting instructions from any individual or governmental or non-governmental organization or group whatsoever.

5. The President shall avoid any situation involving a conflict between his or her own personal or private interest and the interests of the Presidency or the United Nations.

6. The President shall ensure the greatest possible transparency in the utilization of property, premises, services and resources made available for the discharge of the functions of the office and ensure that they are used only for the official business of the Presidency and not for other purposes.

7. The President shall ensure the greatest possible transparency in any external activities, and any commercial dealings, to protect against conflict of interest. Holding of any commercial office during his or her term in office is not compatible with the post of the President.

8. In the event that the President considers that a conflict of interest may arise, he or she shall recuse himself or herself from handling the matter and, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, appoint an Acting President in relation to that matter or meeting.

9. In the fulfilment of his or her mandate, the President is accountable to the General Assembly.

10. Any reference to the President in the present code shall also include members of his or her office while in the exercise of their functions as members of the Office of the Preside..t of the General Assembly.

11. Nothing in this code shall preclude the President or members of his or her Office from being seconded from their Government or from retaining the privileges, immunities and diplomatic status granted by a Member State.